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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/726,511	12/04/2003	Katsuhiko Miyamoto	SAT 143 C1	7180

7590
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01/25/2006

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DUC MINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/726,511

Applicant(s)

MIYAMOTO, KATSUHIKO

Examiner

Duc Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 7-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 7, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh et al (5,353,009) in view of Tsutsui et al (JP404345338A) and Itoi (6,456,625).

Consider claim 1, 7, 10. Marsh teaches a LAN having a power feeding system, comprising a line concentrator (computer 10 in combination with data concentrator 14), and a plurality of terminals including at least one non-telephone terminal, the plurality of terminals (16, column(s) 1, line(s) 45-57; column(s) 2, line(s) 29-41; col. 6, ln. 38-54) being connected to the line concentrator via respective cables (see fig(s) 2 and 4-5, cables 22, 24, 26 and 28), each of the cables including therein a signal line (28) for delivering data signals for mutual communication between the terminals, and a power feed line (22 and 24), wherein the line concentrator comprises a power feed section (see the entire abstract, e.g., the control station houses the computer and supplies the remote station with electrical power, as well as communicating bi-directional with the remote stations) for feeding power to at least one terminal via the corresponding power line (see fig(s) 2 and 4-5, cables 22, 24, 26 and 28).

Marsh does not clearly teach a power feed control switching section; a current monitor section; a control section for controlling the power feed control switching section to connect the

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corresponding power feed lines to the power feed section, and for controlling each of the power feed control switching sections to stop feeding the power via the corresponding power feed line.

Tsutsui teaches a power feeding system for use with terminal equipment for LAN, comprising a power feed line (line connected to R11); a power feed section for feeding power to at least one terminal via the corresponding power line (R11 supplies power to the attachment unit interface (AUI)); power feed control switching section (switch 16); a current monitor section (comparator 14 and its association components); a control section for controlling the power feed control switching section to connect the corresponding power feed lines to the power feed section, and for controlling each of the power feed control switching sections to stop feeding the power via the corresponding power feed line (see the entire abstract) for the purposes of providing a function that stops power feed immediately when detecting an over-current and informs a fault to a main control processor. Since LAN normally comprises more than one terminal equipment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide each of the terminal equipment with a power feeding section as taught by Tsutsui for the purpose of stopping power feed immediately when detecting an over-current and informs a fault to a main control processor.

Marsh in view of Tsutsui does not teach that the plurality of terminals including at least one telephone terminal.

Itoi teaches that the plurality of terminals including at least one telephone terminal (see fig(s) 3b; column(s) 2, line(s) 40-45; column(s) 3, line(s) 23-29; column(s) 7, line(s) 33-64) for the purposes of accommodating existent telephone sets and internet phone devices in a computer network such as a LAN (column(s) 1, line(s) 5-10).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Itoi into the teachings of Marsh in view of Tsutsui for the purposes mentioned above.

3. Claims 2-3, 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsh et al (5,353,009) in view of Tsutsui et al (JP404345338A) and Itoi (6,456,625) as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of Shirani et al (5,617,418).

Consider claims 2-3, 8-9. Marsh in view of Tsutsui and Itoi does not clearly teach a link detecting section for monitoring each of the signal lines to detect whether linkage with respect to the LAN, of the terminal connected to the corresponding signal line, is established.

Shirani teaches a link detecting section for monitoring each of the signal lines to detect whether linkage with respect to the LAN, of the terminal connected to the corresponding signal line, is established (col. 10, ln. 37 to col. 12, ln. 11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings of Shirani into the teachings of Marsh in view of Tsutsui and Itoi in order to allow a network to be configured in a mixed protocol or mixed environment, with, for example, a single hub connected to a plurality of nodes which operate according to different protocols, with the configuration being achieved automatically, without the need for manually establishing a predetermined protocol beforehand for each node.


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Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7503. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM-3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kuntz Curtis can be reached on 571-272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Duc Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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1/22/06